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NEWS

Volunteers meet for the cleaning up of Winchester invasives, trash

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

May 10, 2025 . 1:13 PM — 3 min read

Ann Storer of the Conservation Commission. PHOTO COURTESY/DEBORAH JOHNSON

On a recent Saturday morning, dozens of hard-working volunteers could be found along Borggaard Beach at Wedge Pond, Judkins Pond n

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Griffin Museum, and around the Mill Pond/Mystic Valley Parkway area removing invasive plants and clearing out trash.

Joining the tireless Conservation Commissioners were members of the Friends of Wedge Pond, Winchester Tennis Association, Select Board, Sustainable Winchester, Winchester Cultural District, Boy Scout Troop 507, and many other residents.

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Bill Band (on the Conservation Commission) and Andy Eichelberger (a member of the Friends of Horn Pond.)
PHOTO COURTESY/DEBORAH JOHNSON

There was also a large contingent of Winchester High School students, with some working on their projects for the “Together We Can M Change” curriculum for their freshman biology class.

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At Borggaard Beach, Buckthorn was the main invasive plant removed along Palmer Street. Like many invasives, it was introduced due to its fast growing nature, but has become a nuisance plant whose growth of up to 20 feet, in dense thickets, blocks native plants.

Conservation Commissioner William Band spoke of the Conservation Commission's three year objective to restore the habitat at Wedge Pond, including plans to reopen the Borggaard Beach area to the public. This would not include swimming in the pond, but would be a welcome return to what once was a busy recreation area adjacent to the pond.

Matt Gordon, president of the Friends of Wedge Pond, added that one of the Friends' goals is to renovate the playground area at the beach. Improving water quality is also a main objective, including algae and lake weed control.

Over at Judkins Pond, the cleanup was concentrated along the bank near the new Riverwalk Sculpture Park and the Griffin Museum.

The Conservation Commission had requested the water level be lowered in the pond to make it easier to access an old wire mesh fence for removal, as well as accessing invasive plants along the pond bank. The wire mesh had many plants growing through it, making it a tedious task to complete, with volunteers ankle deep in the muddy pond.

Behind the Town Hall, Elaine Vreeland, the administrator for the Conservation Commission, was busy handing out garbage bags and gloves for the volunteers collecting trash along the Mill Pond, Mystic Valley Parkway, and Skillings Road.

In past years, work along the Aberjona in this area focused on the invasive plant cleanup, but this year it was on trash collection. Many of th

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school volunteers worked in this area, and did a wonderful job quickly amassing a large pile of filled bags.

Avery and Maya (no last name given) PHOTO COURTESY/DEBORAH JOHNSON

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Overall, it was a very successful cleanup event, with much thanks to all who participated!

For those residents who were not able to attend, one way to help is to look for and remove invasive plants in your own yard. Invasive plant seeds spread easily through wind, water and animals, such as birds, which is why we have invasive plants like burning bush in conservation spaces such as the Town Forest.

Some plants that were sold in nurseries for years are now on the invasive plant list, like Burning Bush, Goutweed, and Japanese Barberry. Other plants spread easily into our yards, such as Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet and Tree of Heaven.

A great resource to identify invasive plants and learn about how to remove them effectively is the Town of Natick's Invasive Species website.

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Wi presents 'Syldason: You Are

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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